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News Release

Lt. Cmdr. James Cassata becomes Certified Health Physicist

BETHESDA, Md. – U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. James R. Cassata, Medical Service Corps, Ph.D., former Adjunct Professor of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences recently achieved the title of Certified Health Physicist.

Cassata, who is currently the Deputy Director for the Radiation Health Division at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va., was one of three faculty members from USU eligible to take the exam, achieved certification from the American Board of Health Physics.

Nationwide, less than 20 percent of the individuals who take the exam actually pass and achieve board certification. The first part of the exam is strictly multiple choice and covers the fundamentals of radiation protection or health physics. The second part is more of a problem solving, essay-type format where the individual has to show depth of understanding in radiation protection.

“Certification in health physics has been a professional goal since entering the Medical Service Corps in November 1996,” said Cassata. “Achieving certification to me shows a level of proficiency attained in the field and is a way to gain the respect of health physicists in the civilian community.”

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Cassata received his doctorate in nuclear engineering in 1997 from

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the University of Maryland.

USU was established by Congress under the Department of Defense in 1972 and has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. With its motto "Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way," the university has a worldwide reputation as a center of excellence for military medical education and research.